

Hafa Adai!

Bathroom bomb note sparks lockdown. **PAGE 3**
Ramon Tebuteb is CPA's new board chair. **PAGE 4**

\$1

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902 talks to be held in CNMI



By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI is gearing up for its upcoming 902 talks with the United States and has decided to host the momentous conversations in Saipan.

The Palacios-Apatang administration is in the midst of preparations for the upcoming consultations between the governments of the CNMI and the United States pursuant to Section 902 of the Covenant also known as "902 talks".

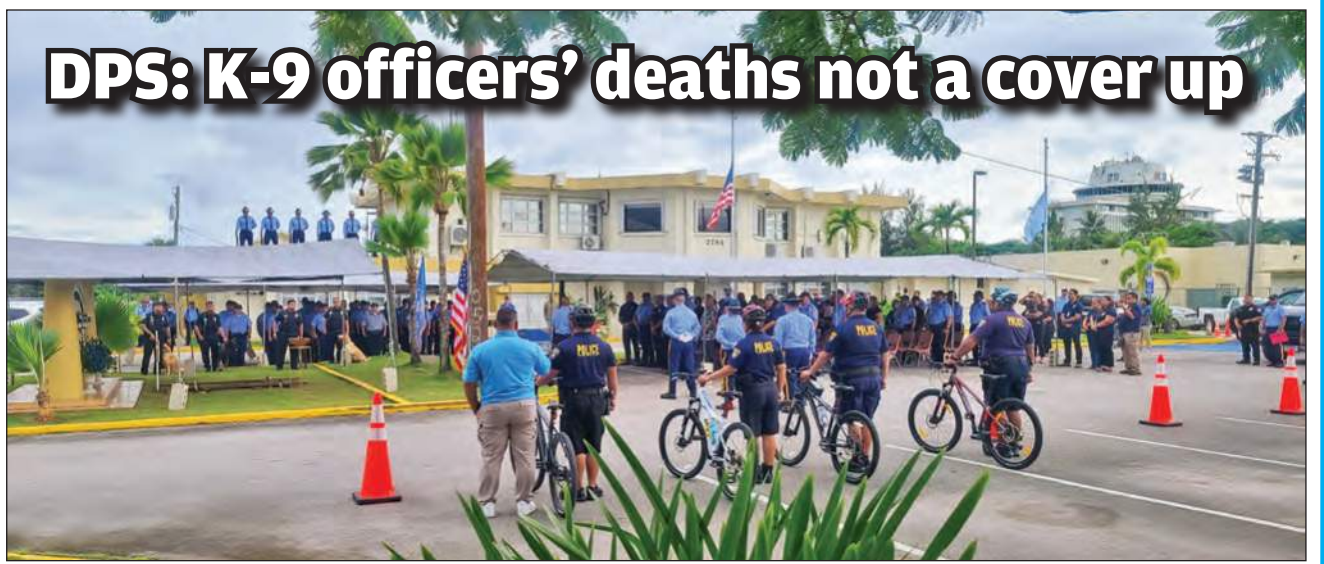
In a statement from Gov. Arnold I. Palacios last week, he said while his administration is still finalizing the

procedural aspects of the consultations, one thing for sure is that he wants the face-to-face discussions to be held on Saipan.

"The face-to-face talks will be held on Saipan. We want [United States government representatives] to come and see the challenges we face to [understand] why the

See 902 on Page 4

DPS: K-9 officers' deaths not a cover up



CHRYSTAL MARINO

The Department of Public Safety's officers and staff attend a solemn memorial service for two K-9 officers last Friday at DPS headquarters in Susupe.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A small private burial ceremony was held at the De-

partment of Public Safety headquarters in Susupe last Friday for two K-9 officers who had died after being left in a heated car.

With speculation surrounding the deaths of the police dogs, *Saipan Tribune* reached out to DPS for clarity on the matter.

"Two of our K-9s passed away on Sept. 8," said assistant chief of police and acting public information officer

See DPS on Page 4

CUC signs MOA making gov't current with account

In a significant move toward financial stability, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios last Friday signed a memorandum of agreement with Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors chair Janice Tenorio, effectively clearing most of the outstanding amounts owed by the central government to CUC.

"Eliminating the majority of debt by the Executive Branch to CUC, which has accumulated over several years, is an important step in strengthening the Commonwealth's financial footing," said Palacios. "The MOA allows us to continue to move forward as

See CUC on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, second from right, signs memorandum of agreement with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. last Friday. Looking on are, from left, CUC chief financial officer Betty Terlaje, CUC board of directors chair Janice Tenorio, and Finance Secretary Tracy Norita.

CHCC owes CUC over \$67M in utility arrears

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is currently struggling to make its utility payments to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. with its current balance now at over \$67 million.

During a regular board meeting last week, CUC chief financial officer Betty Terlaje gave updates on current outstanding accounts, one of them being CHCC's.

According to Terlaje, CHCC is also struggling to keep their payments going and is currently five months behind on their payments.

As of last week, CHCC

See CHCC on Page 4



Terlaje

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Donald Trump has identified what he sees as an all-purpose fix for what ails America: Slap huge new tariffs on foreign goods entering the United States.

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WORLD

Lebanon's Hezbollah group confirmed on Saturday that its leader and one of its founding members, Hassan Nasrallah, was killed in an Israeli airstrike in a southern suburb of Beirut.

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LIFE & STYLE

Maggie Smith, the masterful, scene-stealing actor who won an Oscar for the 1969 film "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" and gained new fans in the 21st century as the dowager Countess of Grantham in "Downton Abbey" and Professor Minerva McGonagall in the Harry Potter films, died Friday.

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Local



From left, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort general manager Il Sik Yeoh, Te's Fish Market Josephine Aguon and her husband, Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" B. Camacho, and Linglin Store's Alvin Palacios.

'RB' meets with Precinct 5 businesses

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Ramon "RB" B. Camacho continued his series of dialogues with the island businesses with Precinct 5 businesses leaders meeting with him at the conference room of the Saipan Mayor's Office last Thursday.

The meeting was attended by Josephine Aguon of Te's Fish Market, Il Sik Yeoh of Laolao

Bay Golf & Resort, and Alvin Palacios of Linglin Store.

"This is the last precinct in the business community I would be meeting. What I'm doing as mayor is getting all the business community to work with me and focus on three programs—promote a safe community, safe village, and a clean island," he said.

Camacho also emphasized the promotion of safe communities through business partnerships as he seeks input from businesses regarding their concerns and challenges. He also aims to identify and address regulatory barriers that hinder business growth and community well-being.

The revival of the Neighborhood Watch, Adopt-a-Place Program, and sports programs for the youth were also among the topics discussed.

Camacho then invited

See **BUSINESSES** on Page 4



CONSERVATION STATUS OF CNMI SEA TURTLES



The Hawksbill (now critically endangered) was first listed under the Endangered Species Act in 1970 with the Green Sea turtle later added to the list in 1978.

CNMI Public law 2-51 was passed in 1981 to establish the Division of Fish & Wildlife in order to protect these endangered species, fish, and game.

POPULATION TRENDS



Many factors play a role in the sea turtle population. Daily surveys are conducted to monitor nesting and non-nesting activity on local beaches. Turtles that do come ashore are tagged and measured. After hatchlings emerge, nest inventories are performed to track hatching success rates. Stranding reports are crucial and reflect how many turtles are affected by poaching, predation, vessel strikes, marine debris, and more. All this data being collected helps us analyze the local sea turtle population trends.

DO YOU KNOW THE SEA TURTLE STRANDING HOTLINE ?

To report turtle tracks, nests, distressed turtles, or illegal harvesting activities call the following:

Sea Turtle Hotline (670) 287-8537
DFW Enforcement (670) 287-1126

 facebook.com/CNMISTP
 [cnmi_seaturtles](https://www.instagram.com/cnmi_seaturtles)

Research activities are authorized by NOAA under award NA21NMF4720284



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Bathroom bomb note sparks lockdown



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Due to a bomb threat, Department of Public Safety officers vehicles block off the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School in San Antonio last Friday.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

After a recent bomb threat at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School in San Antonio caused a lockdown at the school Friday morning, the case remains under investigation.

According to DPS assistant chief of police and acting public information officer Simon T. Manacop, police were notified of a bomb threat at the school at around 10:30am just hours after school started.

CPA Ports Police explosive K-9s were also called in to assist police officer on site as the school went under tight lockdown.

Manacop stated that officers and K-9s did a sweep of the school before giving an “all clear” around two hours later.

According to police the threat had been made through a note found in the school’s bathroom.

“The threat was made through a note which was left inside a restroom,” said Manacop. “I won’t be able to share the exact message since the case is still under investigation, but the details [of the note] involved threat by bomb.”

Manacop said that as of now the case remains under investigation, and therefore he wasn’t able to give more details, including whether or not they have possible suspects.

He did share a warning for those who send or leave bomb threats at schools or anywhere.

“If caught, the perpetrators can be charged with ‘terroristic threatening,’ and if convicted may be sentenced to a term not to exceed 10 years or a fine not to exceed \$10,000, or both,” he said.


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COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY


CNMI Government

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Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962

Website: www.cnmiports.com



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-004-25

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2024: 4:00 P.M.

“REPAIRS OF PIPES AND FITTINGS OF THE SEAWATER FIRE FIGHTING PUMP SYSTEM AT THE PORT OF SAIPAN”

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER’S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

PROPOSERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED “REPAIRS OF PIPES/FITTINGS OF THE SEAWATER FIRE FIGHTING PUMP SYSTEM (RFP-004-25)” TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 4:00 P.M., OCTOBER 31, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.


THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION \$40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS OR PROPOSALS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA

Executive Director

DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2024



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

NMHC IFB 2024-013

(This ad is paid by NMHC by HUD funds)

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: September 30, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Vehicle Lease of 3-Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV) for the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program in Saipan

Bid information and packet is available on September 04, 2024, at the NMHC website at www.nmhc.gov.net by clicking on the “Procurement Tab” or at the CDBG-DR website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

Inquiries regarding this bid shall be submitted to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer via email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net or facsimile at (670)234-9021, on or before September 10, 2024, no later than 10 a.m.


/s/ ZENIE P. MAFNAS

Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED “MARCIE” M. TOMOKANE

Chairwoman

NMHC Board of Directors



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 09-2024

Opening date: September 16, 2024

Closing date: October 04, 2024

Location: SAIPAN

Position(s): (1) CustodiaH
(1) Ports Police Officer-I
(2) General Maintenance-I

SALARY

PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr to \$12.42/hr)
PL 7/1 to 7/12 (\$9.73/hr. to \$16.65/hr)
PL 3/1 to 3/12 (\$8.01/hr to \$13.70/hr)

Location: TINIAN

Position(s): (1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I
(1) General Maintenance-II
(1) Radio Operator/Weather Observer

SALARY

PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)
PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)
PL 7/1 to 7/12 (\$9.73/hr to \$16.65/hr)

Location: ROTA

Position(s): (1) General Maintenance-II
(1) Radio Operator/Weather Observer

SALARY


PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)
PL 7/1 to 7/12 (\$9.73/hr to \$16.65/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than 5:00 P.M. on Friday, October 04, 2024.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerity, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.


CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director



U.S. PROBATION OFFICE

Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands



NOTICE OF SOLICITATION

TREATMENT SERVICES FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND SEX OFFENDERS FOR FEDERAL DEFENDANTS AND OFFENDERS

The U.S. Probation/Pretrial Services Office, Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, intends to procure substance abuse, mental health, and sex offender treatment services for federal defendants and offenders using Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs). Agreements are for Fiscal Year 2025, with a provision for the Government to unilaterally extend the agreement in accordance with Section I, Clause 2-90D, Option to Extend the Term, for an additional four years, at four twelve-month intervals. Separate BPAs will be issued for Guam and Saipan, and required services may include, but are not limited to: urine collection/testing; case management; assessments/evaluations; counseling in the areas of substance use, mental health, co-occurring disorders, and sex offense; and long term residential treatment.

Interested offerors must submit a letter of interest to Grace_Flores@gup.uscourts.gov and Melinda_Santos@gup.uscourts.gov no later than November 1, 2024. The letter should include the offeror’s name, mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address.

An e-mail will be sent to all interested offerors with notification of the availability of the Request for Proposals (RFP). Interested offerors must respond on time to solicitation deadlines and clearly show: (1) they can provide services within the catchment area with a facility available for use, (2) such services will be provided by professionals meeting the experience and criteria required, and (3) prices of such treatment shall be as low or lower than those charged to the offeror’s most favored customer for comparable quantities under similar terms and conditions.

Ramon Tebuteb is CPA's new board chair

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Commonwealth Ports Authority vice chair Ramon Tebuteb has been elected board chair by a major-

ity vote during a CPA board meeting last Friday.

As part of its agenda during last

week's board meeting, CPA reorganized its board through an election of officers.

During the meeting, director Steve Mesngon made the motion nominating Tebuteb as CPA's new chair with the motion being seconded by director Thomas Villagomez.

Without any further discussion, Tebuteb was elected chair of the CPA board by a majority vote of four with two abstentions.

Former board chair Joe Ayuyu and former board vice chair Antonio Cabrera abstained from voting.

Immediately following his nomination and election, board members said they wanted to see their new chair leading the meeting and asked that former chair Ayuyu step down from the helm of the table to give way for Tebuteb assume his seat as chair.

Ayuyu obliged and invited Tebuteb to take his seat and to head the board meeting onwards.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Marianas to have 'relatively dry conditions' next few days

The National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam said the Marianas and western Micronesia will continue to see relatively dry conditions over the next several days.

A trade-wind trough approaching the Marianas may bring scattered showers on Monday. Eastern Micronesia appears to be more active as converging winds from the trade-winds and the potential development of a near equatorial trough lead into increased showers.

Check out NWS' website at weather.gov/gum for your local forecast

and additional weather information.

Meanwhile, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has declared the "All Clear" condition for the islands of Pagan and Alamagan as of 8pm, yesterday, Sept. 28, 2024.

The "All Clear" declaration for Agrihan will be announced after further consultation with the National Weather Service, the Northern Islands Mayor's Office, and the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Although Tropical Depression Jebi continues to move away from the CNMI, the community is asked

to still take precautionary measures as the inclement weather persists throughout the week.

The Office of the Governor advises the community to keep a close watch on official updates relating to weather forecasts and stay informed on the latest statements and advisories which will be available through official channels (listed below) and media partners.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

902

From page 1

discussion points we are going to bring up are very relevant. We have some tentative dates but that's up for discussion," he said.

Palacios said he is currently in discussion with U.S. President Joseph Biden's appointed representative, assistant secretary of the Interior Carmen G. Cantor, to finalize dates and protocols for the upcoming 902 talks.

"I will be meeting with assistant secretary Cantor, whose been appointed to be the President's representative for the 902 talks, and

we're going to be finalizing the dates and protocols for the meetings. We're exchanging those thoughts, and we will be finalizing that," he said.

Palacios adds that the 902 talks will push forward, and he hopes they will be finalized by the time the U.S. elects its new President.

"When a new President comes in, a lot of shifting will occur of course, but we have to give them time. There are some folks that we're probably going to meet who will still be there. Nevertheless, if the new administration comes in, we're going to make sure that we make that effort to immediately communicate with the White House to continue those

talks," he said.

Last July, President Biden responded to the CNMI's request to initiate consultations between the governments of the CNMI and the United States pursuant to Section 902 of the Covenant to "establish the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the U.S."

As part of his response, Biden officially appointed Carmen G. Cantor, the assistant secretary of the Interior, as his representative for the 902 consultations.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

CUC

From page 1

we work to eliminate the burden of past debts."

"I am thankful to the CUC board, its staff, and all those involved in preparing and executing the agreement, which has also bolstered the CNMI central government's partnership with CUC," Palacios added.

The MOA outlines a framework where arrears owed by the CNMI central government to CUC for utility services rendered will be offset against arrears owed by CUC to the Office of the Public Auditor pursuant to 1 CMC -ß 7831, which provides that government corporations must remit 1% of their operations budget to OPA.

The CNMI Department of Finance

has estimated that CUC owes about \$18 million in arrears in outstanding public auditor fees. The exact amount is disputed between CUC and Finance, but both agree the balance is at least \$10.9 million.

Noting that the MOA agreement was pre-approved and unanimously supported by the CUC Board of Directors last week, Tenorio echoed the governor's sentiment, emphasizing the positive impact the MOA will have on CUC's operations.

"This is a win-win situation," said Tenorio. "Not only does the agreement strengthen both the CNMI government's and CUC's financial positions, but it also enhances our ability to serve the people of the CNMI. We are thankful to Gov. Palacios, Finance Secretary Tracy [Norita], and others involved these past few weeks

in bringing this issue to a resolution."

By agreeing to an exchange of payments in the amount of \$10.9 million, both CUC and the CNMI central government are greatly reducing their respective arrears.

Among other provisions, the MOA states that "it is the shared goal of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors and the Executive Branch of the Commonwealth government to assure delivery of the utility services that underpin the Commonwealth economy and are essential to the quality of life."

The MOA also indicates that both the CUC board of directors and the Executive Branch of the Commonwealth government have the responsibility to maintain fiscal responsibility and full compliance with the laws of the Commonwealth. (PR)

get and would make their current situation worse. They, like us, provide essential services. This is a predicament between two very critical agencies," Terlaje added.

Terlaje said CUC has been accommodating but soon, these non-payments have to be collected elsewhere while means the community would be directly impacted.

"While we're being very understanding and accommodating, it's going to impact the community because our cost of service will increase because those charges need to be spread out somewhere else because we can't collect these payments. Unfortunately, that's the situation. Someone else needs to pay for it if [CHCC] doesn't pay for it," she said.

Fortunately, Terlaje said CHCC and CUC is working on a settlement in the form of another MOU.

"Hopefully we'll have a settlement come next week because we're going to be meeting with CHCC again. Maybe we'll have an agreement with them by then to see how we can continue moving forward to at least soften the blow we're feeling from these non-payables. I think the agreement will be similar to the one we had with them before, but the amounts will be different because their usage has increased a little," she said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Falling fuel prices result in decrease of FAC

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. that there has been a decrease in the average international fuel oil prices which may affect the Fuel Adjustment Charge.

Pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC is required to adjust (increase or decrease) the FAC pass-through rate when the "Mean of Platts Singapore" monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel

used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

As a result, the current FAC rate will decrease by 1.9 cents (\$0.019) per kWh, from \$0.23019 to \$0.21119 per kWh, effective Oct. 1, 2024.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric rate, strictly for fuel and fuel-related purchases. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, debt services, or any non-fuel-related expenses. This base rate has not increased since April 2014. (PR)

DPS

From page 1

Simon T. Manacop. "The dogs were inside a patrol car when the aircon malfunctioned and started blowing hot air."

He added that the K-9 handlers that day had originally left the dogs in the car with the A/C on as they went to secure drug evidence at DPS headquarters.

"They returned to the vehicle 30 minutes later and discovered the dogs passed out."

"One passed that same morning," said Manacop. "Officers attempted to resuscitate but were unsuccessful. The other one was rushed to a veterinarian but also passed in the evening."

When asked if it was normal for DPS personnel to leave K-9 officers unattended in the car, Manacop stated. "It is standard procedure that the dogs be left in the vehicle with aircon on while they perform other du-

ties, such as while they were securing evidence," he added.

Pertaining to the matter not being made public, or known to the media, Manacop replied that it had been requested by DPS Commissioner Anthony Macarnas to keep the ceremony private.

When addressing the rumors that the situation had been a cover up, Manacop said that it had been "no cover up." He said that the incident is currently being investigated by DPS' Professional Responsibilities Office.

"There is an active investigation being conducted... in reference to the death of the two K-9s. If an officer is found to have violated any procedures that caused the death, they would face disciplinary actions."

He added, "Now, procedures could be administrative, but the investigation could also take into account criminal violations. If there are criminal statutes that were violated, officers may also face criminal actions."

BUSINESSES

From page 2

everyone to join Hannam Supermarket's Adopt-A-Place ceremony on Oct. 4 at the Koblerville Basketball Court.

Precinct 5, which encompasses San Vicente Village up to Kagman Village, is the last business community that the mayor held a meeting with. Camacho started this year with religious groups, followed by ethnic groups, and then business communities from precincts 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Meanwhile, Te's Fish Market's Aguon shared that her store was also almost victimized by two individuals using fake checks.

She said last Wednesday afternoon, between 1:30pm and 2pm, one of her staff told her that a customer placed an order by phone and asked for the manager's WhatsApp number to send a check payment. The customer

ordered \$205 worth of items and was supposed to pay using a \$440 check under a certain Victoria Reyes and the customer wanted the difference to be returned.

"One of my workers came to me, she goes, 'can you give me your telephone number, so this girl's gonna WhatsApp you the check?' So, before I opened my WhatsApp, she told me that this girl has a \$205 order and the check is \$440, and then she told me I need to give her back the change, and I said, 'no we don't do that'... So, when I opened my WhatsApp, I saw the check and I knew instantly, right when I saw the check that something's wrong," said Aguon.

Aguon then called the customer and the customer said that she was going to work at 2pm, but when she (Aguon) insisted that the customer go to the bank, the customer hung up. All the WhatsApp messages were then deleted by the customer.

CHCC

From page 1

owes CUC over \$67.1 million; over \$35.2 million in principal and over \$31.9 million in penalties.

"They haven't paid since April. Our [previous] memorandum of understanding ended in May but in April they were paying for March or February's bill. So, they're short one payment on their MOU and they haven't paid their bill moving forward. They're basically behind five months," she said.

"They've aired out that they have vendors that, if they don't keep up with their payments, they'll lose some of their special rates that they

OIA awards \$10.7M in Energizing Insular Communities grants to Guam and USVI

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior’s assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor announced over \$10 million in Energizing Insular Communities grant funding to be awarded to Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Through the EIC program, the Office of Insular Affairs supports energy security in the territories by funding proposals tied to each territory’s energy plan, which reflects their self-determined energy goals.

“We are pleased to support the self-determined energy goals of the territories,” said assistant secretary Cantor. “Both territories, in their proposals, will receive support to continue implementing and strengthening clean energy alternatives.”

EIC awards to the Government of Guam a total of \$5,473,190 for Fiscal Year 2024 are as follow:

■ Guam Power Authority/ Guam 100 Phase II: \$3 million for continued detailed analysis of implementation strategies and contingency analysis.

■ Guam Community College/ PV Systems for Buildings 1000 and D: \$ 2,032,800 for a 140kw Hybrid grid-tied PV and Battery Storage System at Building 1000; a 100kw grid-tied PV System for Net Zero Building D.

■ Guam Energy Office/ Plug-In Electric Vehicle Rebate Program: \$335,390 to fund rebates in the Guam Plug-In Electric Vehicle Rebate program, previously funded through local funds and Energy.

■ Bureau of Statistics and Plans/Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles: \$105,000 for two Plug-In Hybrid vehicles for support in carrying out the mission.

EIC awards to the U.S. Virgin Islands Government a total of \$5,232,000 for Fiscal Year 2024 are as follow:

■ Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (VIWAPA)/ Roy Lester Schneider Hospital on St. Thomas: \$3,150,000 to procure and install a 4-hour/2MW Battery Energy Storage System for the Roy Schneider Hospital.

■ VIWAPA/Bucket Truck Project: \$ 1,044,000 to procure and integrate two fully equipped electric bucket trucks into the VIWAPA utility fleet and install chargers.

■ VIWAPA/ Electric Vehicle Project: \$ 1,038,000 to procure and integrate 12 electric vehicles for the VIWAPA utility fleet and install chargers.

The Office of Insular Affairs works closely with the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory to provide techni-

cal assistance in support of the territories’ continued efforts to deploy clean energy systems, diversify energy sources, reduce costs, and improve energy security and resilience. While there were no successful applications from American Samoa or the CNMI this year, NREL is providing support on future applications from the territories.

The assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs and the Office of Insular Affairs carry out the secretary of the Interior’s responsibili-

ties for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The OIA also administers a discretionary Technical Assistance Program for all the Insular Areas. Find information about OIA and its work on www.doi.gov/oia, Facebook, X, and YouTube. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com



PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-001-25
SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

“REMOVAL/DISPOSAL OF EXISTING PAPI AND REIL LIGHTS AND INSTALL NEW PAPI AND REIL LIGHTS AT THE BTM ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER’S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED “REMOVAL/DISPOSAL OF EXISTING PAPI/REIL LIGHTS AND INSTALL NEW PAPI/REIL LIGHTS (IFB-001-25)” TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., OCTOBER 31, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION \$40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2024



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI Government
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Website: www.cnmiports.com



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-011-24
SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2024: 4:00 P.M.

“CYBERSECURITY CENTRALIZED NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION PER TSA REQUIREMENTS”

THE BID PACKAGE AND OTHER CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER’S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE \$100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT FIVE (5) HARD COPIES AND ONE ELECTRONIC COPY ON A CD, OR DVD, OR FLASH DRIVE, IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED “CYBERSECURITY CENTRALIZED NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION PER TSA REQUIREMENTS” (RFP-011-24) TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 4:00 P.M., OCTOBER 31, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION \$40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2024



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-24-033
WAREHOUSE SPACE LEASE FOR CUC SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the lease of warehouse space for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed warehouse space must comply with DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulations.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set followed by completion of registration with the CUC Procurement & Supply.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RFP-24-033, Warehouse Space Lease for CUC Saipan” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 10, 2024. Proposals mailed via postal, or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time. Late submissions will not be considered.

Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This proposal and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements during Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, pay any cost incurred in preparing the proposal under this request, or procure our contract for services.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 17, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Pepe Liwanag, CUC Warehouse Manager, via email at pepe.liwanag@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-027
ISLAND WIDE ROAD RESTORATION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Road Restoration, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of excavation, placing of flowable fill and asphalt to replace pavement areas cut by CUC to repair waterlines. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC and DPW. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year if exercised by CUC.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **October 10, 2024 at 9:30 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference, Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “Island Wide Road Restoration” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 28, 2024** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of the Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualifications shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 11, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email, manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Rodolfo Rodriguez, Water and Wastewater Division Manager via email, rodolfo.rodriguez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, P&S Senior Administrative Technician, via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Voter ID would increase election integrity

Right now, Nevadans must show more identification to buy alcohol than to vote. Question 7 would change that.

Question 7 is a constitutional amendment requiring Nevada voters to present identification before casting a ballot.

Valid forms of identification include a Nevada driver's license or an identification card from Nevada, another state or the federal government. A U.S. passport or military ID would work. A tribal photo identification or university ID would be acceptable. Identification cards that expired within the previous four years would also be permitted. For voters who are 70 or older, the "identification can be expired for any length of time, so long as it is otherwise valid."

For this reform to become law, state voters must approve it this November and again in 2026.

Many progressives insist that voter ID laws represent a furious right-wing conspiracy to suppress the vote, particularly in minority communities. This is bizarre. ID requirements are ubiquitous throughout society for both government and private transactions. Question 7 includes numerous safeguards—and gives the Legislature plenty of leeway—to ensure everyone has access to an acceptable form of identification.

Voter ID demands are no more of a barrier to voting than residency requirements or rules limiting polling hours.

In addition, there is scant evidence that this basic provision discourages voting in practice. According to the National Council of State Legislatures, 36 states ask voters to present proof of identity at the polls. There has been no precipitous decline in participation. On the contrary, Georgia recently experienced record turnout following implementation of the requirement.

Question 7 would also improve the security of mail ballots. It would require those voting by mail to include a verification number along with their signature. That could include the last four digits of a voter's driver's license number or Social Security number. This would make it difficult to successfully return a stolen mail ballot. Nevada's current signature verification system isn't a reliable security measure.

Voter ID laws have widespread support. A Pew Research Center poll earlier this year found that 81% of respondents—including 69% of Democrats—agreed that citizens should have to show proof of identity in order to vote.

Making it easier for Nevadans to participate in the democratic process is a laudable goal. But this must be balanced with ensuring the integrity of the vote. Requiring ID is a reasonable, commonsense precaution against potential fraud and would increase public confidence in the electoral system.

Voters should support Question 7.

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Making Tourism Our Business: Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically

When I was a young student, tourism was the last thing on my mind.

Fortunately, young people today are much more in tune with and a part of our Marianas tourism economy, thanks to the work of Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically—known to most of us as MYWAVE—school clubs. If I could, I'd like to address our students directly with this month's column.

Earlier this month, MYWAVE club advisors met with MTEC and the Marianas Visitors Authority to discuss activities and opportunities for the school year ahead. It's going to be an exciting year!

We heard from advisors that our MTEC Tourism Summit last school year in Marpi was the first time some of you have ever seen these incredible tourist sites. This surprised us, as Marpi is visited by almost every tourist. What a great opportunity to experience what our visitors do when they go to Banzai Cliff, Last Command Post, and Bird Island Lookout. With our theme "Green Space, Memorable Places," we hope you were inspired to help keep our islands green and clean.

One of the most encouraging activities we see among our students are those aimed at protecting and promoting our indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian cultures. As you reinforce the traditional values and practices of these cultures, it creates the opportunity to also share these with our visitors and show them what makes the Marianas unique in the world. This year alone, the MVA has welcomed indigenous dance groups to join us at events like Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival, Saipan Marathon awards banquet, Tinian Hot Pepper Festival, Nippon Dommanaka dance festival in Nagoya, and—just a few days ago—Japan Tourism Expo 2024 in Tokyo. At trade shows like these, our festive dances are very popular and always draw a crowd!

And a warm "hafa adai" or "tirow" is a great way to share our culture and always make a visitor feel welcomed.

If there is one area where we would like to expand our partnership with you, it's in keeping our islands clean. No one wants to live in a trashy house or play in a trashy yard, just like no one would want to visit a trashy island. The Marianas is one of the most beautiful places in the world, and we can all take

By CHRISTOPHER A. CONCEPCION

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Christopher A. Concepcion is the managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority.



pride in that. How can we improve? Remember to throw your trash away. Set an example and encourage your friends, parents, siblings, and cousins not to litter, either. Thank you to everyone who's cleaned up litter, even if it's not yours. Let's keep plastics, aluminum, glass, and other waste from getting into our ocean. And definitely stay away from any form of vandalism, which hurts our community.

We want to give a big shoutout to all the MYWAVE Clubs and other student groups who have been investing their time and energy to help beautify our islands. During May Tourism Month a bunch of you helped clean and paint medians on our main tourist district of downtown Garapan. Others of you have helped with cleaning our historic memorials in Marpi, landscaping, and more. If your group would like to assist with future projects, you can contact manager Raquel Aguon of the MVA's Product Development Division at raquon@mymarianas.com, and we'll put you on a list for any age-appropriate projects come up this school year.

The MVA sincerely thanks our young people for raising the bar on understanding how tourism works and for being an active and enthusiastic part of the industry with your many efforts. You are the future of our Commonwealth and the future of our tourism industry. Our MTEC/MVA team is already reaching out to your public schools as we aim to visit every fourth, seventh, and 10th grades again this year to teach about tourism and the MVA and to find out how much you already know. Over the last decade of these school visits, we've been amazed at how students are becoming more knowledgeable about the industry with each passing year.

Good job learning and making tourism your business!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Who's really keeping Ozempic and Wegovy prices so high?

On Tuesday, congressional leaders spent two hours taking to task Novo Nordisk Chief Executive Officer Lars Fruergaard Jørgensen over the high price of the company's diabetes and obesity drugs, Ozempic and Wegovy. Now the question is whether those prices will change.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, chair of the Senate health committee, focused his sights not only on Novo Nordisk, but on the broader forces that drive up U.S. health care costs. Even so, it's hard to imagine any quick way to improve access and affordability for these drugs.

The hearings come amid new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention illustrating the intractability of the obesity epidemic in the U.S. Despite widespread attention to the problem, rates of obesity haven't significantly budged in the last several years, with over 40% of the population considered obese.

The prospect of 40% of the U.S. population taking obesity drugs has everyone worried about the costs for public and private insurers. Novo's Wegovy carries a list price of \$1,349 per month. The volume of demand is weighing on insurers, even with discounts—and even amid shortages that mean not every patient can fill his or her prescription. It has pushed desperate patients into the gray market for compounded versions of obesity drugs, which are cheaper and more plentiful, but lack any assurances of safety or efficacy.

That situation is what brought Jørgensen before the Senate committee this week. Yet Senate hearings on drug pricing haven't always offered much relief for American health care consumers. Rather, they often serve to illuminate the convoluted nature of drug pricing in the U.S. Senators' line of questioning habitually makes clear that even well-briefed congressional leaders struggle to grasp the flow of money in and out of various players' pockets.

That opacity has been a useful shield for drug manufacturers (and for other players in the system, like insurers and pharmacies). When cornered over the high cost of essential treatments, all a CEO in congressional crosshairs needs to do is deflect the blame toward someone else.

And that was exactly what Jørgensen did. When repeatedly pressed by Sanders to explain why the cost of Novo's GLP-1 therapies is orders of magnitude higher in the U.S. than in several European countries, Jørgensen kept pivoting the conversation to pharmacy benefit managers, or PBMs. They're the middle-

men between drug manufacturers, insurers and pharmacies.

The list price, he explained, is the starting point for negotiations with PBMs, not what anyone (with insurance at least) actually pays. Lowering that price might make semaglutide become less, not more accessible, he said. That's because PBMs make money off the differences between what Novo charges for a drug, the negotiated price an insurer pays for it, and the amount a pharmacy actually receives from its sale. If those margins narrow, the PBM might remove the drug from its list of covered products.

If that sounds outrageous, it is. PBMs recently have become the favorite punching bag over high drug prices for good reason. In theory, their job is to haggle with drug companies to save insurers money. In practice, they have exploited a murky, convoluted system to maximize profits while adding to the rising costs of health care in the U.S. In fact, the Federal Trade Commission last week accused PBMs of keeping the price of insulin artificially high, despite manufacturers' efforts to lower it.

Some members of Congress bought into Jørgensen's narrative that PBMs are fully responsible for the high cost of health care in the U.S. Wyoming Sen. Roger Marshall went so far as to say that "Novo Nordisk is not the villain in this story. They're a hero."

And Novo certainly has developed a groundbreaking product (and to be fair, has put significant resources into developing and manufacturing it). But it also isn't innocent in this mess. One need only look at its recent astronomical revenue and profit growth to see that Ozempic and Wegovy have been very good to the Danish company. The majority of the returns have come from the U.S. market, where both prices and demand are high.

That made it satisfying when Sanders punctured Jørgensen's argument with a dramatic reveal: "I am delighted to announce today that I have received commitments in writing from all the major PBMs that if Novo Nordisk substantially reduces the list price for Ozempic and Wegovy, they would not limit coverage," he said.

The question now is whether anything real comes of it. Jørgensen declined to commit to lower the list price on Ozempic and Wegovy, but indicated he'd be willing to talk with the PBMs.

By **LISA JARVIS**

Bloomberg Opinion

Lisa Jarvis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering biotech, health care and the pharmaceutical industry. Previously, she was executive editor of Chemical & Engineering News.



Getting everyone at one table to hash out a solution sounds great, but I'm skeptical. It's hard to imagine an industry that has profited from loopholes and a lack of transparency will suddenly feel compelled to do the right thing for patients.

Access could ease when Medicare is able to negotiate the price of these drugs. Ozempic and Wegovy are likely to be targeted in the next round of the government agency's program. But the bargaining process is slow—lowered costs wouldn't kick in until 2027.

That's a shame. As Sanders noted, the question of access and affordability is about so much more than economics. "It is a profound moral issue," he said, pointing to a recent study that suggests Ozempic and Wegovy could save more than 43,000 lives each year, while improving the quality of life for many more people.

That statement underscored one positive outcome of the hearings: the open acknowledgement that obesity drugs can truly help Americans live healthier lives. It wasn't that long ago that instead of questioning the high price of these drugs, many were questioning their purpose. The perception that these are cosmetic drugs finally has shifted thanks to study after study showing the central role they might play in mitigating diseases like Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease and potentially even Alzheimer's and addiction.

Unfortunately, without fixing the broken system of drug pricing in the country—not one kink in the chain, but all of them—the potentially profound long-term impact on our nation's health will remain out of reach.

Q and A ON N.O.T.H.I.N.G.

American theoretical physicist, Richard Feynman, d. 1988, provided my inspiration for the Exposition in the following sonnetina. Feynman who is known for his work in quantum mechanics, and particle physics, won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1965. My maternal grandfather provided his Irish folk wisdom when I said I was doing nothing, he said, "couldn't be less." The 1960's proto punk, freak rock group from the lower East Side of NYC, called the Fugs, provided a tragic/comic satiric litany for the *Recapitulation*. Zen thoughts on nothingness and French existentialist philosopher Jean Paul Sartre's book, "Being and Nothingness" helped me as well. Currently I am reading "A Universe from Nothing, Why There Is Something Rather Than Nothing" by Lawrence M. Krauss. It has caused me to reflect on the duality of spacetime curvature and a flat universe side by side with quantum mechanics and entanglement. Many 21st century cosmologists, astrophysicists, and inflation theory followers think the universe is expanding into nothingness.

EXPOSITION

Richard Feynman used to like to go up to people and say, "You won't believe what happened to me today! You just won't believe it!" And when they would inquire what happened he would say, "Absolutely nothing!"

DEVELOPMENT

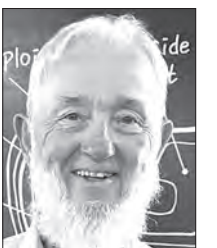
N. no non nay nil nada negativity, nevermore, never again, not possible
O. on and on open origin, objectives, occasional open-door policy, open up
T. to through time, times tables, to hell and back, towards telescopic heaven
H. has had have here held high in heaven, hell no! hello how are you happy?
I. I am, ie. intelligence intellect introspection, Ai yi yi corazón, imagine
N. next to nothing, no way Jose, nothing doing, nonexistent, Isaac Newton

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey Connolly aka "Pepe Batbon" is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is the Poet Laureate of Tinian and enjoys stargazing.



G. gigantic genius greater and less than gravity genuine Googleplex grit
I. information highway A.I. ignorance initiation invitation into intelligence
S. so what? sure as shooting sometimes slowly sliding into super symmetry
L. letting go towards leaving losing living on leftover love and laughter
E. egging on, eating air, eliminating egotistic empires, egregious eruptions
S. so now what? standing still still standing standing alone dark star stuff
S. sometimes slowly some kind of sincere supercalifragilisticexpialidocius.

RECAPITULATION

Selected lyrics from The Fugs 1965 song 'NOTHING'

"Monday nothing, Tuesday nothing Wednesday and Thursday nothing Friday for a change A little more nothing Saturday once more nothing. Sunday nothing..." (the same lyrics above were then sung in Spanish and in German). More lyrics continue, "January nothing February nothing March and April May and June A lot more nothing July nothing." There are also political lyrics which negate both American and Communist politicians, specific calendar years, academic subjects, music, poetry, etc. By now you get the picture. Basically, the song is a litany of negatives, a chant proclaiming that everything is "nothing."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Seeking answers: Marianas High School teacher case

Whatever happened to the teacher from Marianas High School who was accused of having inappropriate relations with a student? We all know he no longer works at the school, but after the initial reports, there hasn't been any news or updates regarding the case.

Surprisingly, his name was never even officially released.

Many in the community are likely aware of who he is, but it raises the question—why wasn't his name made public, especially considering the seriousness of the allegations? While certain details may need to be kept confidential during an investigation, the complete lack of transparency leaves many of us concerned about the outcome and any legal repercussions.






This issue is about more than just one individual; it's about the safety and trust of students and the community. Transparency is critical in cases like this, and I believe the public deserves an update on what really happened.

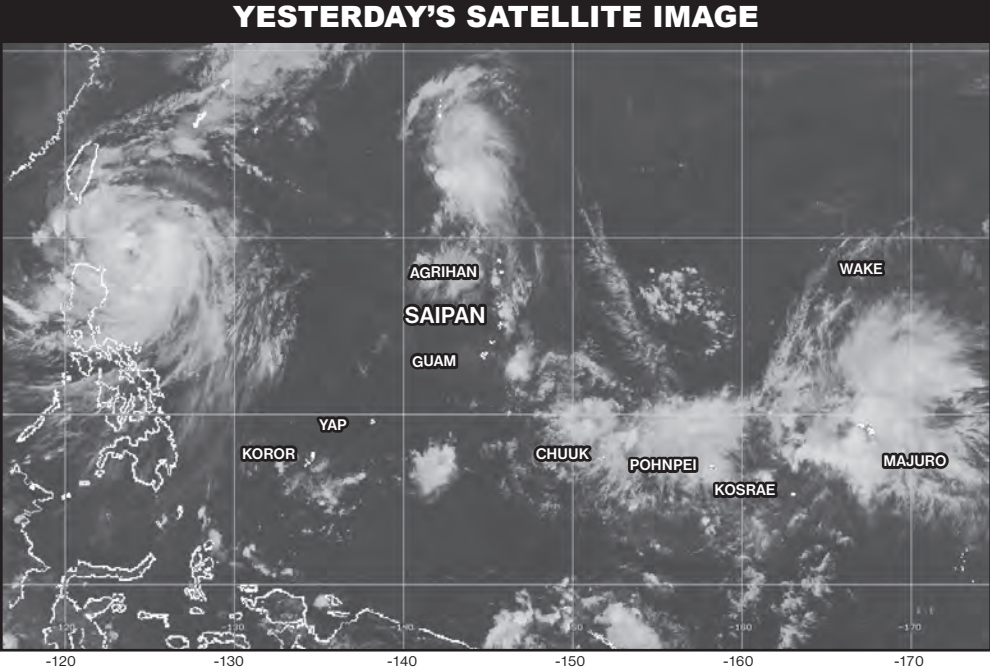
We need answers.

Maria Sablan

Via email

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	
88°	78°	88°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°



PICTURE TIME: 5:49 AM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Overnight showers and thunderstorms looked to be headed for the Marianas. These showers diminished into cloud cover as they crossed into the Marianas waters. Showers may return Monday, due to a passing trough. Seas are expected to be around 3 to 5 feet. Winds are expected to be light to moderate.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	81° / 77°	
Yap	Sunny	84° / 78°	
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	83° / 77°	
Kosrae	Cloudy	84° / 79°	
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:06 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:06 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:05 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:04 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:04 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:55 AM	4:40 PM	-
Tuesday	4:42 AM	5:13 PM	-
Wednesday	5:27 AM	5:46 PM	-
Thursday	6:13 AM	6:18 PM	-
Friday	6:59 AM	6:52 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	64° / 58°	
Beijing	Sunny	88° / 61°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°	
Honolulu	Sunny	86° / 76°	
London	Cloudy	62° / 45°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	91° / 67°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 76°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 49°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	72° / 54°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 66°	
Paris	Showers	61° / 46°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	80° / 65°	
Rome	Thunderstorms	73° / 63°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	75° / 52°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	71° / 56°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	89° / 68°	
Tokyo	Showers	74° / 65°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	70° / 53°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:34 AM	Low Tide	0.88	
5:47 AM	High Tide	1.64	
12:29 PM	Low Tide	0.24	
7:01 PM	High Tide	1.79	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	10:00PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Sep 2-8	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 6, 7 Sep 9-15	7C3472	11:00AM	4:40PM	Sep 15-18
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily Sep 16-22	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	7 Sep 1
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 7 Sep 23-29	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 7 Sep 2-8
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 5, 6, 7 Sep 9-15
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily Sep 16-22
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Sep 15-18	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 7 Sep 23-29
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	3:05AM	6:00AM	1, 5	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
				HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T*Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

Trump favors huge new tariffs. What are they, how do they work?

WASHINGTON (AP)—Donald Trump has identified what he sees as an all-purpose fix for what ails America: Slap huge new tariffs on foreign goods entering the United States.

The former president and current Republican nominee asserts that tariffs—basically import taxes—will create more factory jobs, shrink the federal deficit, lower food prices and allow the government to subsidize childcare.

He even says tariffs can promote world peace.

“Tariffs are the greatest thing ever invented,” Trump said this month in Flint, Michigan.

As president, Trump imposed tariffs with a flourish—targeting imported solar panels, steel, aluminum and pretty much everything from China.

“Tariff Man,” he called himself.

This time, he’s gone much further: He has proposed a 60% tariff on goods from China—and a tariff of up to 20% on everything else the United States imports.

This week, he raised the ante still higher. To punish the machinery manufacturer John Deere for its plans to move some production to Mexico, Trump vowed to tax anything Deere tried to export back into the United States—at 200%.

And he threatened to hit Mexican-made goods with 100% tariffs, a move that would risk blowing up a trade deal that Trump’s own administration negotiated with Canada and Mexico.

Mainstream economists are generally skeptical of tariffs, considering them a mostly inefficient way for governments to raise money and promote prosperity. They are especially alarmed by Trump’s latest proposed tariffs.

This week, a report from the Peterson Institute for Interna-

tional Economics concluded that Trump’s main tariff proposals—assuming that the targeted countries retaliated with their own tariffs—would slash more than a percentage point off the U.S. economy by 2026 and make inflation 2 percentage points higher next year than it otherwise would have been.

Vice President Kamala Harris has dismissed Trump’s tariff threats as unserious. Her campaign has cited a report that found that Trump’s 20% universal tariff would cost a typical family nearly \$4,000 a year.

But the Biden-Harris administration itself has a taste for tariffs. It retained the taxes Trump imposed on \$360 billion in Chinese goods. And it imposed a 100% tariff on Chinese electric vehicles.

Indeed, the United States in recent years has gradually retreated from its post-World War II role of promoting global free trade and lower tariffs. That shift has been a response to the loss of U.S. manufacturing jobs, widely attributed to unfettered free trade and an increasingly aggressive China.

Tariffs are a tax on imports

They are typically charged as a percentage of the price a buyer pays a foreign seller. In the United States, tariffs are collected by Customs and Border Protection agents at 328 ports of entry across the country.

The tariff rates range from passenger cars (2.5%) to golf shoes (6%). Tariffs can be lower for countries with which the United States has trade agreements. For example, most goods can move among the United States, Mexico and Canada tariff-free because of Trump’s US-Mexico-Canada trade agreement.

There’s much misinformation about

who actually pays tariffs

Trump insists that tariffs are paid for by foreign countries. In fact, it’s importers—American companies—that pay tariffs, and the money goes to U.S. Treasury. Those companies, in turn, typically pass their higher costs on to their customers in the form of higher prices. That’s why economists say consumers usually end up footing the bill for tariffs.

Still, tariffs can hurt foreign countries by making their products pricier and harder to sell abroad. Yang Zhou, an economist at Shanghai’s Fudan University, concluded in a study that Trump’s tariffs on Chinese goods inflicted more than three times as much damage to the Chinese economy as they did to the U.S. economy.

Tariffs are intended mainly to protect domestic industries

By raising the price of imports, tariffs can protect homegrown manufacturers. They may also serve to punish foreign countries for committing unfair trade practices, like subsidizing their exporters or dumping products at unfairly low prices.

Before the federal income tax was established in 1913, tariffs were a major revenue driver for the government. From 1790 to 1860, tariffs accounted for 90% of federal revenue, according to Douglas Irwin, a Dartmouth College economist who has studied the history of trade policy.

Tariffs fell out of favor as global trade grew after World War II. The government needed vastly bigger revenue streams to finance its operations.

In the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, the government is expected to collect \$81.4 billion in tariffs and fees. That’s a trifle next to the \$2.5 trillion

that’s expected to come from individual income taxes and the \$1.7 trillion from Social Security and Medicare taxes.

Still, Trump wants to enact a budget policy that resembles what was in place in the 19th century.

He has argued that tariffs on farm imports could lower food prices by aiding America’s farmers. In fact, tariffs on imported food products would almost certainly send grocery prices up by reducing choices for consumers and competition for American producers.

Tariffs can also be used to pressure other countries on issues that may or may not be related to trade. In 2019, for example, Trump used the threat of tariffs as leverage to persuade Mexico to crack down on waves of Central American migrants crossing Mexican territory on their way to the United States.

Trump even sees tariffs as a way to prevent wars.

“I can do it with a phone call,” he said at an August rally in North Carolina.

If another country tries to start a war, he said he’d issue a threat:

“We’re going to charge you 100% tariffs. And all of a sudden, the president or prime minister or dictator or whoever the hell is running the country says to me, ‘Sir, we won’t go to war.’”

Economists generally consider tariffs self-defeating

Tariffs raise costs for companies and consumers that rely on imports. They’re also likely to provoke retaliation.

The European Union, for example, punched back against Trump’s tariffs on steel and aluminum by taxing U.S. products, from bourbon to Harley-Davidson motorcycles. Likewise, China responded to Trump’s trade war by slapping tariffs on American goods, including soybeans and pork in a calculated drive to hurt his supporters in farm country.

A study by economists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Zurich, Harvard and the World Bank concluded that Trump’s tariffs failed to restore jobs to the American heartland. The tariffs “neither raised nor low-

ered U.S. employment” where they were supposed to protect jobs, the study found.

Despite Trump’s 2018 taxes on imported steel, for example, the number of jobs at U.S. steel plants barely budged: They remained right around 140,000. By comparison, Walmart alone employs 1.6 million people in the United States.

Worse, the retaliatory taxes imposed by China and other nations on U.S. goods had “negative employment impacts,” especially for farmers, the study found. These retaliatory tariffs were only partly offset by billions in government aid that Trump doled out to farmers. The Trump tariffs also damaged companies that relied on targeted imports.

If Trump’s trade war fizzled as policy, though, it succeeded as politics. The study found that support for Trump and Republican congressional candidates rose in areas most exposed to the import tariffs—the industrial Midwest and manufacturing-heavy Southern states like North Carolina and Tennessee.

Chamber October meeting this Wednesday

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will host its October general membership meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024, from 11:30am to 1pm at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan’s Hibiscus Hall.

During the meeting, Chamber committee chairs will share updates on happenings within each committee. Soon after, the Chamber will have special guest speakers lined up, first, the Headquarters Company Commander of Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz, Capt. Ryan West who will officially launch the 2024 Toys for Tots Campaign, provid-

ing a historical overview of this initiative with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.


Secondly, Department of Corrections Commissioner Anthony Torres will discuss the new K-9 unit within his department and its impact on our community, as well as share his ongoing plans and initiatives for the department..

Visit the Chamber’s website to secure your seat: <https://shorturl.at/YgPhV> or you may contact our office at 670-234-7150 or send us an email at contactus@saipan-chamber.org.

The registration fee is \$35

for Chamber members and \$40 for non-Chamber members. This fee includes a delicious lunch, networking opportunities, and insightful discussions.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization with approximately 140 members dedicated to promoting the economic growth and development of the CNMI. The Chamber serves as the collective voice of the business community, advocating for their interests, fostering collaboration, and driving initiatives that support the local economy. (PR)




DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

† Gilbert Santos Muna

Lovingly known as “Gil”
Born on May 12, 1962
Was called to his eternal rest by our dear Lord on
September 21, 2024

In his new life, he now joins his:
Parents: †Esteban Tudela Muna & †Maria Santos Muna “Terang”
Brother, Sister and Sister In-Law: †Vicenta “Lily” Muna Sablan,
 †Francisco Santos Muna & †Irene B. Muna



His memories will live in the hearts of his:
Sister & Brothers and Spouses:
Carmen S. Muna (Jacob Jon Muna, Cleavon Judd Muna & Majumy A. Muna, Kyle James Muna & Marlinda G. Bentzen & Family);
Victor S. Muna (Jennifer Ada & Patrick Cabrera & Family, Vincent Jonas Iba & Family, Allen Muna);
 †Vicenta “Lily” Muna Sablan/Jose P. Sablan (Nanette S. Palacios & Joseph R. Palacios & Family, Jovinetta S. Cruz & John Cruz & Family, Leannette M. Sablan & Family);
 †Francisco S. Muna/†Irene B. Muna (Roseann B. Muna & Family, Valerie B. Muna & Family, Karen B. Muna & Family, Casey B. Muna);
Gerard S. Muna/Melinda I. Muna (Joshua I. Muna & Family, Stevielyn I. Muna, Jenica I. Muna, Malia I. Muna, Gerard Muna, Jr.)

He will be missed by numerous Nieces, Nephews, Godchildren, Relatives and Friends.

Daily masses are being offered daily from Monday to Saturday 6:00 p.m. and on Sunday Mass is offered at 7:00 a.m. at the San Antonio Church. Daily masses are also being offered daily from Monday to Saturday at 6:00 a.m. at the Mount Carmel Cathedral and on Sunday mass is offered at 9:00 a.m.

Funeral and memorial services will be held on Tuesday, October 1st, 2024. His remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to the Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso and Holy Rosary will commence at 8:00 a.m. followed by public viewing. Mass will be offered at 11:00 a.m.

We thank you for your thoughts and prayers.
From the Family

Nation

At least 64 dead in Helene's wake



AP

Boats sit after being pushed ashore by floodwaters from Hurricane Helene on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

PERRY, Fla. (AP)—Massive rains from powerful Hurricane Helene left people stranded, without shelter and awaiting rescue, as the cleanup began from a tempest that killed at least 64 people, caused widespread destruction across the U.S. Southeast and knocked out power to millions of people.

"I've never seen so many people homeless as what I have right now," said Janalea England of Steinhatchee, Florida, a small river town along the state's rural Big Bend, as she turned her commercial fish market into a storm donation site for friends and neighbors, many of whom couldn't get insurance on their homes.

Helene blew ashore in Florida's Big Bend region as a Category 4 hurricane late Thursday with winds of 140 mph (225 kph).

From there, it quickly moved through Georgia, where Gov. Brian Kemp said Saturday that it "looks like a bomb went off" after viewing splintered homes and debris-covered highways from the air. Weakened, Helene then soaked the Carolinas and Tennessee with torrential rains, sending creeks and rivers over their banks and straining dams.

Western North Carolina was isolated because of landslides and flooding that forced the closure of Interstate 40 and other roads. All those closures delayed the start of the East Tennessee State University football game against The Citadel because the Buccaneers' drive to Charleston, South Carolina, took 16 hours.

There have been hundreds of water rescues, none more dramatic than in rural Unicoi County in East Tennessee, where dozens of patients and staff were plucked by helicopter from a hospital rooftop Friday. And the rescues continued into the following day in Buncombe County, North Carolina, where part of Ashe-

ville was under water.

"To say this caught us off guard would be an understatement," said Quentin Miller, the county sheriff.

Asheville resident Mario Moraga said it was "heartbreaking" to see the damage in the Biltmore Village neighborhood and neighbors have been going house to house to check on each other and offer support.

"There's no cell service here. There's no electricity," he said.

While there have been deaths in the county, Emergency Services Director Van Taylor Jones said he wasn't ready to report specifics, partially because downed cell towers hindered efforts to contact next of kin. Relatives put out desperate pleas for help on Facebook.

The storm, now a post-tropical cyclone, was expected to hover over the Tennessee Valley on Saturday and Sunday, the National Hurricane Center said.

It unleashed the worst flooding in a century in North Carolina. One community, Spruce Pine, was doused with over 2 feet (0.6 meters) of rain from Tuesday through Saturday.

And in Atlanta, 11.12 inches (28.24 centimeters) of rain fell over 48 hours, the most the city has seen over two days since record keeping began in 1878.

President Joe Biden said Saturday that Helene's devastation has been "overwhelming" and pledged to send help. He also approved a disaster declaration for North Carolina, making federal funding available for affected individuals.

With at least 25 killed in South Carolina, Helene is the deadliest tropical cyclone for the state since Hurricane Hugo killed 35 people when it came ashore just north of Charleston in 1989. Deaths also have been reported in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia.

Moody's Analytics said it expects \$15 billion to \$26 bil-

lion in property damage. AccuWeather's preliminary estimate of the total damage and economic loss from Helene in the U.S. is between \$95 billion and \$110 billion.

Evacuations began before the storm hit and continued as lakes overtopped dams, including one in North Carolina that forms a lake featured in the movie "Dirty Dancing." Helicopters were used to rescue some people from flooded homes.

Among the 11 confirmed deaths in Florida were nine people who drowned in their homes in a mandatory evacuation area on the Gulf Coast in Pinellas County, Sheriff Bob Gualtieri said.

None of the victims were from Taylor County, which is where the storm made landfall. It came ashore near the mouth of the Aucilla River, about 20 miles (30 kilometers) northwest of where Hurricane Idalia hit last year at nearly the same ferocity.

Taylor County is in Florida's Big Bend, went years without taking a direct hit from a hurricane. But after Idalia and two other storms in a little over a year, the area is beginning to feel like a hurricane superhighway.

"It's bringing everybody to reality about what this is now with disasters," said John Berg, 76, a resident of Steinhatchee, a small fishing town and weekend getaway.

Climate change has exacerbated conditions that allow such storms to thrive, rapidly intensifying in warming waters and turning into powerful cyclones sometimes in a matter of hours.

Helene was the eighth named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, which began June 1. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has predicted an above-average season this year because of record-warm ocean temperatures.

World

Hezbollah confirms Hassan Nasrallah killed in airstrike

BEIRUT (AP)—Lebanon's Hezbollah group confirmed on Saturday that its leader and one of its founding members, Hassan Nasrallah, was killed in an Israeli airstrike in a southern suburb of Beirut.

The killing of the powerful militant group's longtime leader sent shockwaves throughout Lebanon and the Middle East, where he has been a dominant political and military figure for more than three decades.

Nasrallah, linked by Israel to numerous deadly attacks on Israeli and Jewish targets, has been on Israel's kill list for decades. His assassination is by far the biggest and most consequential of Israel's targeted killings in years, and significantly escalates the war in the Middle East. Hezbollah is backed by Iran, Israel's chief regional rival.

The Israeli military said it carried out a precise airstrike on Friday while Hezbollah leaders were meeting at their headquarters in Dahiyeh, south of Beirut.

Immediately after the confirmation from Hezbollah, people starting firing in the air in Beirut and across Lebanon to mourn Nasrallah's death.

"Wish it was our kids, not you, Sayyid!" said one woman, using an honorific title for Nasrallah, as she clutched her baby in the western city of Baabda.

"We don't believe he is

killed," a woman draped in black tearfully told al-Manar TV in Bekaa, western Lebanon. "We don't. We left our homes and came here for him and for the resistance."

In his first public remarks since the killing, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel's targeting of Nasrallah was "an essential condition to achieving the goals we set."

"He wasn't another terrorist. He was the terrorist," Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu said Nasrallah's killing would help bring displaced Israelis back to their homes in the north and would pressure Hamas to free Israeli hostages held in Gaza. But with the threat of retaliation high, he warned the coming days would bring "significant challenges" and warned Iran against trying to strike.

"There is no place in Iran or in the Middle East that Israel's long arm cannot reach. And today you know how much that is true," he said.

The Lebanese Health Ministry said six people were killed and 91 injured in the strikes Friday that leveled six apartment buildings. Ali Karki, the commander of Hezbollah's Southern Front, and other commanders were also killed, the Israeli military said.

A statement from Hezbollah said Nasrallah—who led the group for more than three decades—"has joined his

fellow martyrs." The group vowed to "continue the holy war against the enemy and in support of Palestine."

Hezbollah started firing rockets on Israel in support of Gaza on Oct. 8, a day after Hamas militants launched an unprecedented attack on Israel, killing some 1,200 people and abducting another 250. Since then, the two sides have been engaged in escalating cross-border strikes.

Israel has vowed to step up pressure on Hezbollah until it halts its attacks that have displaced tens of thousands of Israelis from communities near the Lebanese border. The recent fighting has also displaced more than 200,000 Lebanese in the past week, according to the United Nations.

Earlier this month, thousands of explosives hidden in pagers and walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah detonated, killing dozens of people and maiming thousands, including many civilians. Israel is widely believed to be behind the attack. Israel has killed several other top Hezbollah commanders in Beirut, especially in the past two weeks, in addition to the attack that killed Nasrallah.

In Beirut's southern suburbs, smoke rose and the streets were empty Saturday after the area was pummeled overnight by heavy Israeli airstrikes. Shelters were overflowing with displaced people.

Russian strikes on medical center kill 9 people in Ukrainian city of Sumy

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Two consecutive Russian attacks on a medical center in the northeastern Ukrainian city of Sumy on Saturday killed at least nine people, officials said.

The first strike killed one person. Russia attacked again while patients and staff were evacuating, said Ukraine's Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko.

Local officials in Sumy said Shahed drones were used in the attack. Twenty-one other people were wounded, Sumy Acting Mayor Artem Kobzar said.

Sumy lies some 20 miles (32 kilometers) from Russia's Kursk region, where Ukrainian troops have made a surprise incursion since Aug. 6 in a bid to di-

vert the Kremlin's military focus away from the front line in Ukraine.

In Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region, a Russian airstrike on the village of Slatyne on Saturday killed three people and wounded three more, Kharkiv regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said.

Syniehubov also said one person was killed in a drone attack in the nearby village of Kozacha Lopan.

Ukraine's air force said it shot down 69 of 73 Russian drones launched overnight into Saturday as well as two of the four missiles. City authorities in Kyiv said around 15 drones had been shot down over the Ukrainian capital and its outskirts.

In Kryvyi Rih, Ukrainian

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's home city, local officials said Saturday that a man's body was found under the rubble of an administrative building hit by a Russian missile on Friday, bringing the death toll from that attack to four.

In Russia, the Defense Ministry said Saturday that air defenses overnight had shot down four Ukrainian drones over the Belgorod region and one over the Kursk region, both areas bordering Ukraine.

One person was killed in Ukrainian shelling of the Russian border city of Shebekino on Saturday, Belgorod regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said. Two other people were wounded.

Life & Style

Maggie Smith, actor famed for Harry Potter and 'Downton Abbey,' dies at 89

LONDON (AP)—Maggie Smith, the masterful, scene-stealing actor who won an Oscar for the 1969 film "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" and gained new fans in the 21st century as the dowager Countess of Grantham in "Downton Abbey" and Professor Minerva McGonagall in the Harry Potter films, died Friday. She was 89.

Smith's sons, Chris Larkin and Toby Stephens, said in a statement that Smith died early Friday in a London hospital.

"She leaves two sons and five loving grandchildren who are devastated by the loss of their extraordinary mother and grandmother," they said in a statement issued through publicist Clair Dobbs.

Smith was frequently rated the preeminent British female performer of a generation that included Vanessa Redgrave and Judi Dench, with two Oscars, a clutch of Academy Award nominations and a shelf full of acting trophies.

She made her film debut in the 1950s, won Oscars for work in the 60s and 70s and had memorable roles in each subsequent decade, including an older Wendy in Peter Pan story "Hook" (1991) and a mother superior of a convent in Whoopi Goldberg's comedy "Sister Act" (1992).

A commanding stage actor, she played Shakespearean tragedy—1965 adaptation "Othello"—and voiced Shakespeare-

inspired animation in "Gnomeo & Juliet" (2011).

She remained in demand even in her later years, despite her lament that "when you get into the granny era, you're lucky to get anything."

Smith drily summarized her later roles as "a gallery of grotesques," including Professor McGonagall. Asked why she took the role, she quipped: "Harry Potter is my pension."

Richard Eyre, who directed Smith in a television production of "Suddenly, Last Summer," said she was "intellectually the smartest actress I've ever worked with. You have to get up very, very early in the morning to outwit Maggie Smith."

"Jean Brodie," in which she played a dangerously charismatic Edinburgh schoolteacher, brought her the Academy



AP
British actress Dame Maggie Smith poses in London on Dec. 16, 2015. Smith, who won an Oscar for "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" in 1969 and won new fans in the 21st century as the dowager Countess of Grantham in "Downton Abbey," has died at 89.

Award for best actress, and the British Academy Film Award (BAFTA) as well.

Smith added a supporting actress Oscar for "California Suite" in 1978, Golden Globes

for "California Suite" and "A Room with a View," and BAFTAs for lead actress in "A Private Function" in 1984, "A Room with a View" in 1986 and "The Lonely Passion of

Judith Hearne" in 1988.

She also received Academy Award nominations as a supporting actress in "Othello," "Travels with My Aunt," "A Room with a View" and "Gosford Park," and a BAFTA award for supporting actress in "Tea with Mussolini." On stage, she won a Tony in 1990 for "Lettice and Lovage."

From 2010, she was the acid-tongued Violet Crawley, Dowager Countess of Grantham, in hit TV period drama "Downton Abbey," a role that won her legions of fans, three Emmy Awards, a Golden Globe and a host of other awards nominations.

But she chafed at television fame. When the show's run ended in 2016, Smith said she was relieved. "It's freedom," she told The Associated Press.

"Not until 'Downton Ab-

bey' was I well-known or stopped in the street and asked for one of those terrible photographs," she said.

She continued acting well into her 80s, in films including the big-screen spinoff to "Downton Abbey" in 2019, its 2022 sequel "Downton Abbey: A New Era" and 2023 release "The Miracle Club."

Smith had a reputation for being difficult, and sometimes upstaging others.

Richard Burton remarked that Smith didn't just take over a scene in "The VIPs" with him: "She commits grand larceny." However, the director Peter Hall found that Smith wasn't "remotely difficult unless she's among idiots. She's very hard on herself, and I don't think she sees any reason why she shouldn't be hard on other people, too."

'Saturday Night Live' launches 50th season with Jean Smart, Jelly Roll and maybe Maya as Kamala

NEW YORK (AP)—"Saturday Night Live" is set to set off its 50th season with host Jean Smart and musical guest Jelly Roll.

Smart, the 73-year-old "Hacks" and "Designing Women" star who just won her sixth Emmy, has never hosted the NBC sketch comedy institution before in her more than 40-year career. She said on Instagram that the gig is a "bucket list" achievement for her.

Former cast member Maya

Rudolph is reportedly returning to the show this season to play Vice President Kamala Harris, and if recent patterns of opening episodes with politics-of-the-moment are any indication, she could be in the premiere's cold open at the top of the show.

Rudolph has popped up to play Harris before—and won an Emmy for it—but has yet to play the role of presidential candidate.

Lorne Michaels is still at the helm, just as he was for

the first episode on Oct. 11, 1975, when George Carlin hosted and the nation got its first dose of the Not Ready for Prime Time Players: Chevy Chase, John Belushi, Gilda Radner, Dan Aykroyd, Jane Curtin, Laraine Newman and Garrett Morris.

There were two musical guests—Billy Preston and Janis Ian—playing two songs apiece, the norm in the early days.

The country singer and rapper Jelly Roll has the

music role to himself Saturday, and like Smart he's a first-timer.

That debut show is documented and reenacted in the newly released Jason Reitman film "Saturday Night," part of a wave of reflection and celebration the show is getting on the cusp of its 50th anniversary.

Upcoming episodes will feature host Nate Bargatze with musical guest Coldplay, Ariana Grande with Stevie Nicks, Michael Keaton with

Billie Eilish, and John Mulaney with Chappell Roan.

Those shows will lead up to a three-hour primetime special on Feb. 16 that will serve as the official 50th season celebration. It's sure to feature a wide range of the many stars the show has spawned, including Bill Murray, Eddie Murphy, Billy Crystal, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Robert Downey Jr., Mike Myers, Adam Sandler, Chris Rock, Tina Fey, Amy Poehler and Will Ferrell.

Readers weigh in on pets joining us for eternity

DEAR ABBY: "Missing My Cat in Georgia" (June 20) was told by his Catholic friend that his cat wouldn't be joining him in the afterlife. I have been an ordained pastor for 27 years.

Last summer my cat, Fred, who had been with me for 11 years, died. I claim no deeper or higher connection to God than anyone else, but I do know this: The Bible says that God is a God of love—indeed, that God IS love.

I know of no more loving companions than pets. Dogs and cats express their love for us humans far better than most of us humans do for each other. I also know that Fred, who just showed up at my house one night and adopted ME, taught me many lessons about how to love and be loved.

I am certain God sent Fred into my life to prepare me for marriage after 55 years as a bachelor. I am a better husband (and pastor) because of Fred. Therefore, I cannot imagine God not inviting, even welcoming, Fred into some sort of heavenly afterlife, whatever that may look like. LOVE NEVER DIES, and I don't believe that the loving relationship between a pet and their human ends at death.

PASTOR STEVE IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR PASTOR STEVE: Thank you for reinforcing the sentiments I expressed to "Missing." The mail poured in after that letter ran. All of it refuted the opinion of "Missing's" friend. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: When my girls were growing up, we had a German shepherd named Lady. We often had our Catholic priest over for dinner and, one evening, the girls asked him if

Lady would go to heaven when she died. He responded by asking them, "Do you want her to be there when you get there?" "Of course!" they answered. He then responded, "We are told that heaven is everything and more than we want or can imagine. If you want Lady there, she will be there."

BRENDA IN MICHIGAN

DEAR ABBY: I'm a seminary-trained, theologically educated, ordained Protestant minister at a large mainline church smack in the middle of the Bible Belt. I'd like to tell "Missing" that the Bible has many Scripture verses that depict animals in heaven. A great many people who have died and been resuscitated have written about their experiences and said they saw their long-deceased pets on the other side. I want "Missing" to know I am sure there's a happy, purr-fect reunion waiting for him when his earthly life is done.

PET-LOVING PROTESTANT MINISTER

DEAR ABBY: There's a story about an old gentleman who lost his life in a sudden accident, which also took the life of his very old dog. Afterward, they found themselves on a long road, which finally led to a tall and beautifully decorated gate guarded by an official-looking man with a magnificent gray beard and long white robe.

"This is heaven," the bearded man said. "Come in. We've been expecting you. But you'll have to leave your dog outside. No animals allowed." The old man thought about it for a moment before saying, "That's OK. We'll keep walking."

Eventually, they came to a small turnstile, where they encountered a scruffy old man with a wide grin sitting on a stool.

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

"You passed the final test," the smiling man said, pushing open the turnstile. "My name is Peter. Welcome to heaven!"

"But ... I thought we passed heaven a few hours ago. They wouldn't let me bring my dog in," the old gentleman said sadly. "No," replied Peter, "that was the Devil you met back there, trying to tempt you one last time. Deep down inside, you knew better. Pearly gates or not, how could any place be heaven if you couldn't bring your dog?"

JEFF IN OHIO

DEAR JEFF: If I recall correctly, that heartwarming story was written by Rod Serling and appeared on his series, "The Twilight Zone."

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Prescott throws 2 TD passes, Cowboys win 7th straight over Giants



E A S T RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—There

was a sense of relief in a somewhat subdued Dallas Cowboys locker room after a hard-fought victory over the New York Giants. There was little celebration.

What was important Thursday night were the numbers on the scoreboard at MetLife Stadium. Dallas Cowboys 20, New York Giants 15.

The two-game losing streak was over and those who have been criticizing Dallas (2-2) and coach Mike McCarthy and predicting a disappointing season had been quieted for one night. The Cowboys were back to being the Cowboys, a good offense and a solid defense.

Dak Prescott threw one of his two touchdown passes to CeeDee Lamb and the Cowboys beat the Giants for the seventh straight time and 14th in 15 games.

"We got to change the narrative. That's what this game did, especially over a long weekend," said Prescott, who completed 22 of 27 for 221 yards. "It puts us at 2-and-2. It allows us a couple of days to get our mind right, to get our body right."

Prescott hit running back Rico Dowdle on a 15-yard screen pass for a touchdown to put Dallas ahead in the first quarter. He then found Lamb for a 55-yard catch-and-run TD on a play that ended with the receiver being called for taunting.

"I lost my first two games to them," said Prescott, who has



Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) passes against the New York Giants during the second quarter of an NFL football game, Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024, in East Rutherford, N.J.

won his last 13 starts against New York. "It could have been a remarkable rookie year had that not happened. It's a good matchup for us. The offensive line always sets the tone. I love playing here in New York. Cowboy fans travel well."

Lamb slipped past two defenders and trotted into the end zone. He then fired the ball in their direction and flexed his

muscles, drawing an unsportsmanlike-conduct penalty.

"I think it was the only 1-on-1 I got all game and we exploited it," said Lamb, who had seven catches for 98 yards. He still has not had a 100-yard game this season.

Brandon Aubrey kicked field goals of 60 and 40 yards for Dallas, which came into the game with major concerns

after being thoroughly beaten at home by New Orleans and Baltimore. A new issue for the Cowboys is an apparent leg injury to star pass rusher Micah Parsons, who was carted off the field in the fourth quarter. Parsons said he is getting X-rays on Friday.

Greg Joseph made field goals of 52, 41, 38, 22 and 42 for the Giants (1-3), who con-

trolled the ball for 35:37 but failed to score a touchdown at home for the second straight game. They had two field goals in a 28-6 loss to Minnesota in their opener.

What hurt New York was its inability to run against the league's worst rush defense. Dallas been giving up an average of 185.7 yards, but it held the Giants to 26 yards on 24

carries, a 1.1-yard average.

"I would say we've got to do a better job in the run game, and that starts with me," coach Brian Daboll said. "But we tried a variety of things, we couldn't really get much going."

Daniel Jones' arm kept this one close. He completed 29 of 40 passes for 281 yards, finding sensational rookie Malik Nabers 12 times for 115 yards and Wan'Dale Robinson 11 times for 71 yards. But the one thing he could not find was the end zone.

"We don't feel good about losing," said Jones, who has three straight solid performance. "We didn't didn't do enough to win. We're frustrated. We're not discouraged. I think we're still confident in our team and what we can do well, but we don't feel good about this."

Nabers left late in the game with a concussion. Jones threw an interception on the Giants' final series after Aubrey missed a 51-yard field goal try—his first career miss from over 50 yards—to give New York one slim last shot.

If there was a bright spot for the Giants, they were at least competitive against a bitter rival. They lost last year's two games by an 89-17 margin.

The Cowboys got just what they wanted on Thursday night.

"You lose two in a row, you go through a phase where everybody is kind of uptight," Lamb said. "Was good for us to come out 1-and-0 this week. It's one we needed. It's a division game. It put us in the right place."

Steelers vet Patterson hasn't let pride get in the way during a record-setting career

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Cordarrelle Patterson doesn't fit into a specific box. And to be honest, that's the way he prefers it.

If the Pittsburgh Steelers veteran has learned anything during his 12-year career it's that too much pride can be a dangerous thing. Yes, he's a former first-round pick. Yes, he's a four-time Pro Bowler as a kick returner. Yes, his nine kickoff return TDs are an NFL record.

Yet that didn't stop the 33-year-old from raising his hand a couple of weeks ago when the punt team needed a gunner, not normally the domain of players with a resume as varied and accomplished as Patterson's. Not that it mattered in the moment. The Steelers needed somebody to run 50 yards and try to tackle someone. Why not?

"I just want to play ball," Patterson said. "That's something I've been doing my

whole life. Like, I can't get enough of it."

And it apparently can't get enough of him.

The Steelers signed Patterson to a two-year deal in March, intrigued by his versatility and deep knowledge of first-year offensive coordinator Arthur Smith's playbook. Smith coached Patterson for three seasons in Atlanta, where Smith quickly learned there wasn't anywhere he could put Patterson on the field that would make Patterson feel out of place.

It helps that Patterson has a tight end's size, a wide receiver's speed and a running back's thirstiness for contact. Listed at 6-foot-2 and 220 pounds, the reality is that Patterson is probably 20ish pounds heavier and runs with a fury that burns brightly at an age where most skill position players are simply just trying to hang on. That is if they're even playing at all.

It was widely assumed the

Steelers would use Patterson's experiences and explosiveness to take advantage of the new kickoff rules. Yet opportunities have been hard to come by, in part because Pittsburgh's defense has allowed the fewest points in the league. So Smith has figured out other ways to get Patterson involved.

On some drives, that might mean lining up in the slot. For others, it might mean working out of the backfield. Late in the fourth quarter of a 20-10 victory over the Los Angeles Chargers, Patterson carried four times for 33 yards during a bruising drive that drained the final five minutes off the clock and sealed Pittsburgh's first 3-0 start since 2020.

"I mean, he can do everything, especially when he's that big," Fields said. "Shoot, I know if I'm on defense and I see 6-4, 240 (pounds)—however much he weighs—running full speed at me, I wouldn't want to tackle him."

Patterson knows he remains a handful. Don't mistake his mindfulness about being too prideful with the lack of an ego. His self-belief runs deep.

"I know I don't set myself short for anything, man," Patterson said. "I feel like I could play any position on the football field. If my name is called, I'll just go out there and make a play no matter what."

He's not joking. Patterson quickly ran through a list of positions where he thinks he'd make an impact, quarterback included. It's not a coincidence that he tries to find a fan in the stands to play catch with before every game in hopes it'll send a subliminal message to the coaching staff that he will happily run the offense in an "in case of emergency, break glass" kind of situation.

"The more you can do, man, the more you stay around in this league," said Patterson, who has yet to attempt a pass in the NFL.

That Patterson—who has

worn the No. 84 since the Vikings drafted him with the 29th overall pick in 2013—has found a way to stick around is a testament to both his talent and his resourcefulness even as he's bounced around a half-dozen teams. He was primarily a wide receiver during stays in Minnesota and Chicago before former New England coach Bill Belichick used him as a hybrid of sorts in 2018, a season in which Patterson averaged a healthy 5.4 yards per carry while helping the Patriots win the Super Bowl.

Smith and the Falcons took a flyer on Patterson in 2021 and Smith reveled in the mismatches having Patterson on the field might create. His speed makes him a tough cover for a linebacker. He's bigger than any cornerback. And he's willing to run in between the tackles and pick up tough yards, something that typically doesn't fit the job description of a player who made the

NFL's All-Decade team in the 2010s thanks to an ability to pull away from the pack while returning kicks.

Patterson will likely spell Najee Harris in the backfield on Sunday in Indianapolis (1-2) with Jaylen Warren sidelined by an injury. Harris called Patterson a "future Hall of Famer" because of his record-setting numbers as a kick returner, though Harris also provided a more apt and simple description of the oldest active running back in the league.

"He's just a good football player," Harris said.

A player who has no plans to give up a game that first took hold of him as a 6-year-old growing up in South Carolina. He's still effective. He's still a viable option in a myriad of situations. Why would he stop until he has to?

"I'm just enjoying it man, because it doesn't last forever," he said. "So just go out and have fun."

Yankees clinch AL home field despite 9-4 loss to Pirates



NEW YORK

(AP)—Paul Skenes pitched two perfect innings in his Yankee Stadium debut and the Pittsburgh Pirates hit five homers, including four off rookie Luis Gil, in a 9-4 win Saturday that delayed New York from clinching home-field advantage throughout the American League playoffs.

Yasmani Grandal and Nick Gonzales hit solo homers in the first four innings off Gil (15-7). Rookie Billy Cook in the fifth and Jared Triolo in the sixth added two-run drives. Nick Yorke hit a two-run homer in the ninth against Will Warren.

New York has lost four of five and opens the Division Series at home Oct. 5. The Yankees would be assured of home-field advantage in the League Championship Series by winning their regular-season finale or by Cleveland losing one of its last two.

Aaron Judge followed his third game off this season with his third five-strikeout game, his first since May 5, 2021.

WHITE SOX 4, TIGERS 0

DETROIT (AP)—Sean Burke pitched two-hit ball over five innings, Andrew Benintendi tied his career high with his 20th homer and the Chicago White Sox beat the playoff-bound Detroit Tigers 4-0 on Saturday to stay at 121 losses going into their season finale.

Making his fourth big league appearance, Burke (2-0) struck out six and walked three, helping stop Detroit's six-game winning streak.

Detroit had two baserunners in each of the first two innings. Burke allowed only one runner in his last three innings.

CUBS 3, REDS 0

CHICAGO (AP)—Kyle Hendricks waved to appreciative fans after what may have been his final start for the Cubs, and Chicago beat Cincinnati.

Hendricks allowed only only a pair of singles, one an infield hit, and walked two over 7 1/3 innings on an afternoon with a strong wind blowing in from the northeast at Wrigley Field. The 34-year-old right-hander struck out two and retired 11 in a row in one stretch.

Dansby Swanson doubled off Buck Farmer (3-2) starting the eighth. Justin Wilson relieved, Cody Bellinger singled and Seiya Suzuki was intentionally walked.

Paredes pinch hit and looped a single to center to drive in the first run. After Pete Crow-Armstrong's RBI single, Mike Tauchman drew



New York Yankees' Aaron Judge reacts after striking out during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates, Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024, in New York.

a bases-loaded walk.

Tyson Miller (5-1) got two outs in the eighth, and Porter Hodge pitched a perfect ninth for his ninth save in 12 chances, finishing a three-hitter.

Cincinnati has lost five in a row. The Reds were shut out for the 16th time and held to three hits or fewer for the 20th time.

NATIONALS 6, PHILLIES 3

WASHINGTON (AP)—Philadelphia lost to Washington who got a three-run homer from Joey Gallo in a four-run eighth-inning.

James Wood hit a two-run, opposite-field homer in the sixth off Zack Wheeler, who finished 16-7 with a 2.57 ERA after allowing three hits in 6 1/3 innings while tying his season high with 11 strikeouts. Wheeler struck out 224 in 200 innings.

Trea Turner tied the score with a two-out homer in the eighth against Jose A. Ferrer (1-0).

Wood tripled leading off the bottom half against Jeff Hoffman (3-3) and scored on Keibert Ruiz's bloop single. Dylan Crews singled with two outs and Gallo followed with his 10th homer, a drive down the right-field line.

Alec Bohm hit an RBI grounder in the ninth.

MARLINS 8, BLUE JAYS 1

TORONTO (AP)—Dane Myers hit a three-run homer and finished with a career-high five RBIs, Griffin Conine had three hits and an RBI and Miami claimed a series against Toronto for the first time since 2009 with a victory.

Miami's Jesus Sanchez scored three runs for the second straight game.

Myers was activated off the 60-day injured list Tuesday. He fractured his left ankle when he kicked a door out of frustration

after being ejected in a 10-6 loss at Cincinnati on July 13.

RAYS 7, RED SOX 2

BOSTON (AP)—Kutter Crawford allowed his major league-high 34th home run, a go-ahead drive by Junior Caminero, and took his big league-worst 16th loss when Tampa Bay beat the Boston.

Caminero had three RBIs for the Rays (80-81), who with a series sweep would avoid their first losing season since 2017. Caminero and Brandon Lowe had three hits each.

Shane Baz (4-3) won his third straight start, allowing two runs and three hits in six innings with seven strikeouts, one walk, two hit batters and a run-scoring wild pitch.

Crawford (9-16) gave up six runs, five hits and four walks in 4 1/3 innings with six strikeouts, finishing with a 4.36 ERA. His 33 starts tied for the major league lead.

Tristan Casas' 13th homer put Boston ahead in the first.

ASTROS 4, GUARDIANS 3

CLEVELAND (AP)—Justin Verlander gave up three runs in six innings for his 262nd victory and the AL West champion Houston beat Cleveland.

Jose Ramirez hit his 39th homer, stole his 41st base and drove in three runs for AL Central champion Cleveland, moving within one home run of becoming the seventh player in major league history with 40 home runs and 40 stolen bases in a season.

Cleveland's loss clinched home-field advantage throughout the AL playoffs for the New York Yankees, who lost to the Pirates 9-4 on Saturday, while locking the Guardians into the second spot. Both have first-round byes.

Shawn Dubin worked a scoreless ninth for his second save. Houston will host either

Detroit or Kansas City in the best-of-three AL Wild Card Series beginning Tuesday.

BREWERS 6, METS 0

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Joey Ortiz drove in three runs for Milwaukee and the New York mustered just two hits as their playoff hopes sustained another blow with a loss to the Brewers.

New York (87-72) lost their third straight and fell one game behind Atlanta (88-71) in the NL wild card race when the Braves beat Kansas City 2-1 on a ninth-inning, walk-off homer from former Met Travis d'Arnaud.

The Mets are competing for the NL's final two wild-card spots with the Braves and Arizona (88-72), which was hosting San Diego.

Both the Mets and Braves have head-to-head tiebreaker advantages over the Diamondbacks. The Mets and Braves would play a Monday doubleheader in Atlanta if their postseason fates haven't been settled.

ORIOLES 9, TWINS 2

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Emmanuel Rivera went 4 for 4 with two homers and four RBIs to lead the Baltimore to a win over Minnesota.

Ryan O'Hearn also homered and Jackson Holliday added three hits for the Orioles, who have clinched the top wild card in the American League and will face either the Kansas City Royals or Detroit Tigers in the first round of the playoffs.

Brooks Lee had two hits for the Twins, who have lost six of their last seven and were eliminated from playoff contention on Friday. Ryan Jeffers helped the Twins avoid the shutout with a two-run homer with two outs in the ninth.

BRAVES 2, ROYALS 1

ATLANTA (AP)—Travis

d'Arnaud hit a walk-off homer in the ninth inning and Atlanta kept up their postseason push with a win over the playoff-bound Kansas City.

Reynaldo Lopez came off the injured list to throw six strong innings for the Braves, who moved one game ahead of the New York Mets and a half-game in front of Arizona for the final two wild-card spots in the National League. The Mets lost 6-0 at Milwaukee and the Diamondbacks were hosting San Diego.

D'Arnaud ended it with one swing in the ninth, launching a 2-0 pitch from Sam Long (3-3) over the center-field wall for his 15th homer this season.

Raisel Iglesias (6-2) earned the win.

GIANTS 6, CARDINALS 5

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Tyler Fitzgerald reached on an infield single and scored the eventual winning run in the eighth inning on a throwing error by St. Louis pitcher Matthew Liberatore, leading the San Francisco Giants to a 6-5 win over the Cardinals on Saturday.

The Cardinals rallied with three runs in the seventh inning to tie the game at 5. In the bottom of the eighth, Fitzgerald singled off the leg of Liberatore (3-4). He wound up scoring when Brett Wisley dropped down a two-out bunt that Liberatore fielded and threw wildly toward first base and into foul territory beyond the bag, allowing Fitzgerald to score from first.

Matt Chapman had two doubles and all but one San Francisco starter had a hit as the Giants banged out 11 hits. Patrick Bailey finished with two RBIs.

PADRES 5, DIAMONDBACKS 0

PHOENIX (AP)—Kyle Higashioka, Brandon Lockridge and Donovan Solano homered in the ninth inning, lifting the San Diego to a win over Arizona, who continued to lose ground in the National League playoff race.

The Diamondbacks (88-73) have lost five of six as they chase an NL wild card. They're currently behind the Braves (88-71) and Mets (87-72), who hold the final two playoff spots.

The game was scoreless heading into the ninth. With one out, David Peralta singled up the middle and then Higashioka cranked a no-doubt, two-run homer deep into the left field stands.

Lockridge followed with his first big league homer, which was also hit to left.

DODGERS 13, ROCKIES 2

DENVER (AP)—Shohei Ohtani had two hits and raised his average to .310 in his bid to overtake batting leader Luis Arraez and become the National League's first Triple Crown winner since 1937, helping the playoff-bound Los Angeles beat Colorado.

Ohtani went 2 for 5 and closed within four points of Arraez, who got a night off from San Diego and is hitting .314 going into the regular season's final day.

Ohtani leads the NL with 54 homers and 130 RBIs. The last NL Triple Crown winner was Joe Medwick of the 1937 St. Louis Cardinals. The last to achieve the feat in the major leagues was Detroit's Miguel Cabrera in 2012.

In addition, Ohtani stole his 58th base of a season in which he became the first 50-50 player.

MARINERS 7, ATHLETICS 6, 10 INNINGS

SEATTLE (AP)—Leo Rivas scored on Justin Turner's fielder's-choice grounder to lift Seattle over Oakland in 10 innings.

Pinch-runner Rivas avoided Shea Langeliers' tag attempt at the plate with a wide slide, giving Seattle its third straight win and 11th victory in its final at-bat of the season.

Luke Raley rallied the Mariners twice for their seventh win in their last nine. First, Julio Rodriguez scored from first base on Raley's double into the left-field corner for a 4-3 lead in the seventh inning.

Then he hit a two-run homer to right field to tie it 6-6 in the ninth. His 22nd homer came after Langeliers had put the A's up 6-4 in the top of the inning with a three-run homer.

RANGERS 9, ANGELS 8

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Jonathan Ornelas had a two-run single in Texas' four-run ninth inning and the Rangers scored six times in the final two innings to beat Los Angeles.

Nathaniel Lowe had a home run among his three hits and drove in three runs, including one on a bases-loaded walk for the Rangers' first run of the ninth. Dane Dunning (5-7) pitched a scoreless inning for the win and Kirby Yates got the last three outs for his 33rd save.

Rookies Gustavo Campero and Niko Kavadas hit back-to-back home runs, and Logan O'Hoppe had four hits to tie a career high and scored twice for the Angels. Los Angeles squandered a 7-1 lead after three innings and lost their fifth straight game. They have lost 14th of their last 17 and extended their franchise record for losses in a season to 98.

T’Wolves agree to trade Towns to Knicks for Randle, DiVincenzo, 1st-rounder

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Timberwolves are sending Karl-Anthony Towns to the New York Knicks in exchange for Julius Randle, Donte DiVincenzo and a first-round draft pick in a franchise-altering deal for both sides, a person with knowledge of the deal said Friday night.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the trade, which was first reported by The Athletic, had not been finalized.

Towns, a four-time All-Star entering his 10th season who’s one of the best outside shooting big men in the NBA, never hinted at any discontent with the team that drafted him first overall in 2015 despite several lean years preceding the run to the Western Conference finals last spring.

Active in the Twin Cities community, willing to defer the alpha role to young star

Anthony Edwards, and unbothered by the move to a stretch power forward role following the acquisition of center Rudy Gobert two years ago, Towns did not appear to see this move coming three days before the beginning of training camp.

In an interview with the AP earlier this week about a youth center he’s helping build in the Dominican Republic—the homeland of his late mother, Jackie—Towns spoke with nothing short of excitement about the season ahead and Minnesota’s outlook coming off the 2023-24 breakthrough that ended in a five-game loss to Dallas in the conference finals.

“We showed our merit last season,” Towns said. “We showed our growth, and I think more importantly we showed maturity. We found a way to show we belonged. I’m just so proud of what we were able to do last year. We’re not going to be surprising anyone. I think

we’ve shown that we’re a team that you definitely have to take into consideration. When you see us on the calendar, you’ve got to bring your best.”

The Wolves will most definitely have to bring their best on Dec. 19, when they host the Knicks. Minnesota plays an exhibition game at New York on Oct. 13 and in the regular season at Madison Square Garden on Jan. 17.

Towns posted an ellipsis on the social platform X Friday night, without a single word.

Towns grew up in Minnesota in a big way, entering the league at age 19. He played for five head coaches and had seven heads of basketball operations over his nine seasons with the Wolves. The man who drafted him out of Kentucky, Flip Saunders, died of cancer four months later.

Towns got caught up in a personality struggle in 2018 with former teammate and fellow All-Star Jimmy Butler,



Minnesota Timberwolves center Karl-Anthony Towns (32) drives to the basket over Dallas Mavericks forward Maxi Kleber (42) during the second half in Game 4 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals, Tuesday, May 28, 2024, in Dallas.

who requested a trade after one season and used a scorched-Earth method of forcing his way out. Towns found the injury bug more recently, too, with a strained calf limiting

him to 29 games in 2022-23. And his mother’s death from COVID-19 complications in 2020 took a personal toll.

The upside for the 7-footer is a return to his roots, having

grown up in New Jersey. He’ll also be reunited with coach Tom Thibodeau, who spent 2 1/2 seasons with Minnesota after being hired in Towns’ second year.

Minnesota president of basketball operations Tim Connelly has never been afraid of a bold move, as he proved by going big—on the court and off—in the Gobert deal. This decision was even bigger, as the Wolves prepare for the challenge of trying to make it two steps further in the playoffs while the top teams in the West show no signs of letting up around them.

The Wolves get a three-time All-Star power forward in Randle, plus a sharpshooter in DiVincenzo coming off a career-best season and a first-rounder to offset some of the draft capital they sent to Utah in the trade for Gobert.

BRYAN

From page 16

of what team they were in. They were just genuinely here to watch the sport grow and I think we did a really good job today,” he said.

With his match against Agda, he said, “I felt like he really brought his A-game today. We’ve grappled a few times be-

fore just like in training and he felt the best today. So, I really commend him for making it all the way to silver and giving me a really good push.”

“He was in the lead in the first half and I was just able to pull off a couple more points on the back end and secure the win, but the entire time, I had to stay on my toes, so kudos to him,” said the trainee under black belt Baret Yoshida—a

prominent American figure in Jiu-Jitsu and a world no-gi champion.

Results of the rest of the Adult No-Gi weight categories and the Kids Gi categories will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

Mats on Fire served as Trench Tech Promotions’ fundraiser for the upcoming Pātgon Jiu Jitsu Tournament in Guam set for Oct. 26.

STREAK

From page 16

his latest accomplishment, Deleon Guerrero, a certified Star Wars fan, answered as expected.

“As Jedi Master Obi-wan Kenobi said, ‘It surrounds us and penetrates us; it binds the galaxy together.’ I made sure to start each day with a run so that my streak did, indeed, surround, penetrate, and bind my days together,” he said.

Deleon Guerrero then thanked fellow Jedi junkies Edward “Revan” Dela Cruz Jr. and Dr. Ron “Running” Snyder for helping him along his run streak journey from the very start.

“The best way to celebrate was to run that mile with Ed, Ron, and Angel [San Nicolas]. I dedicate this to anyone struggling with health, hoping it inspires them to step up and step out for a run. If, as the saying goes, ‘A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step,’ then a journey of a 1,000 days begins with that first day. Shrink the challenge down to small, manageable steps,” he added.

As for the difficulties of continuing the streak, Deleon Guerrero said going into Year



Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, left, poses with friends who accompanied him during his comma run. From left, Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr., Angel San Nicolas, and Dr. Ron Snyder with his dog Gilligan.

4, it has somehow become easier, as “it became second nature to me.”

But it doesn’t mean it didn’t have its challenges, like the day he had a medical situation.

“The day I had to go in for a colonoscopy and was starving because I couldn’t eat the entire day before. I still squeezed in my mile before the procedure.”

As for the crowning jewel—the Medal of Bravery in keeping with the Star Wars theme—of his running streak so far, he said it would most definitely be his comma day.

“Most memorable was the 1,000th run, especially since I had good colleagues show

up with me.”

Dela Cruz, who is president of Run Saipan, applauded Deleon Guerrero for sticking to his run streak.

“Outstanding performance from Dr. Galvin. He is very busy with his work at the college and still manages to show the public that you can always have time for your health and wellness if you make it a priority.”

Aside from Deleon Guerrero, others who have so far reached the Run Streak comma on Saipan are Alison Nelson, Snyder, and Dela Cruz himself, who is 200 days short of 3,000 days of running at least 1 mile a day.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-New York	93	68	.578	—
y-Baltimore	90	71	.559	3
Boston	80	81	.497	13
Tampa Bay	80	81	.497	13
Toronto	74	87	.460	19
Central Division				
x-Cleveland	92	69	.571	—
y-Detroit	86	75	.534	6
y-Kansas City	85	76	.528	7
Minnesota	82	79	.509	10
Chicago	40	121	.248	52
West Division				
x-Houston	88	73	.547	—
Seattle	84	77	.522	4
Texas	77	84	.478	11
Oakland	69	92	.429	19
Los Angeles	63	98	.391	25
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
x-Philadelphia	94	67	.584	—
Atlanta	88	71	.553	5
New York	87	72	.547	6
Washington	71	90	.441	23
Miami	61	100	.379	33
Central Division				
x-Milwaukee	93	68	.578	—
Chicago	83	78	.516	10
St. Louis	82	79	.509	11
Cincinnati	76	85	.472	17
Pittsburgh	76	85	.472	17
West Division				
x-Los Angeles	97	64	.602	—
y-San Diego	93	68	.578	4
Arizona	88	73	.547	9
San Francisco	80	81	.497	17
Colorado	61	100	.379	36

x-clinched division
y-clinched wild card

NFL STANDINGS						
AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	3	0	0	1.000	112	48
N.Y. Jets	2	1	0	.667	67	52
Miami	1	2	0	.333	33	72
New England	1	2	0	.333	39	57
South						
Houston	2	1	0	.667	55	74
Indianapolis	1	2	0	.333	58	61
Jacksonville	0	3	0	.000	40	85
Tennessee	0	3	0	.000	48	78
North						
Pittsburgh	3	0	0	1.000	51	26
Baltimore	1	2	0	.333	71	78
Cleveland	1	2	0	.333	50	67
Cincinnati	0	3	0	.000	68	80
West						
Kansas City	3	0	0	1.000	75	62
L.A. Chargers	2	1	0	.667	58	33
Denver	1	2	0	.333	52	46
Las Vegas	1	2	0	.333	58	81
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
Philadelphia	2	1	0	.667	70	63
Washington	2	1	0	.667	79	88
Dallas	2	2	0	.500	97	
N.Y. Giants	1	3	0	.250	60	84
South						
New Orleans	2	1	0	.667	103	44
Tampa Bay	2	1	0	.667	64	62
Atlanta	1	2	0	.333	49	61
Carolina	1	2	0	.333	49	95
North						
Minnesota	3	0	0	1.000	85	30
Detroit	2	1	0	.667	62	53
Green Bay	2	1	0	.667	75	58
Chicago	1	2	0	.333	53	57
West						
Seattle	3	0	0	1.000	73	43
Arizona	1	2	0	.333	82	64
L.A. Rams	1	2	0	.333	57	91
San Francisco	1	2	0	.333	73	69

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



**Prescott throws
2 TD passes,
Cowboys win
7th straight
over Giants**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**T'Wolves agree
to trade Towns to
Knicks for Randle,
DiVincenzo, 1st-
rounder**

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16 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Bryan DLG takes heavyweight gold

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

His black belt is not just for show as Bryan Deleon Guerrero displayed why he achieved the highest level of expertise in Brazilian

Jiu Jitsu with a gold medal win in Trench Tech Promotions' "Mats on Fire" submission grappling tournament last Saturday at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse.

They saved the matchup of the behemoths on the mat for last, as Deleon Guerrero took

on a much heftier Kier Agda in the finals of the Adults No-Gi 206-250-lb heavyweight class for five minutes of nonstop, edge-of-your seat action.

Deleon Guerrero held down Agda in the final stretch as Agda settled for silver. Third place was Micronesian Games gold medalist wrestler Ryan Babauta after he defeated Ballen Song. There were five competitors in total in their weight class including Lucas Nutting and Kyle "Panda" Park.

In the finals, Agda used his weight to his advantage, pinning the much smaller Deleon Guerrero for an early 3-0 lead. Both went on trying to gain the upper hand as it was a grappling match that used up the whole floor plan. But Deleon Guerrero used his more refined skills, techniques, and loads of patience to get back into the match, 2-3.

With the five minutes almost all used up, Deleon Guerrero moved into more advantageous positions and guards that resulted in him racking up more points, while Agda stagnated. In the end, Deleon Guerrero's smaller frame yet more explosive movements collected him more points to win, 6-3.

Deleon Guerrero, owner and coach of the new BJJ gym, Saipan Submissions Academy in Chalan Kanoa, said after the competition that his win felt great.

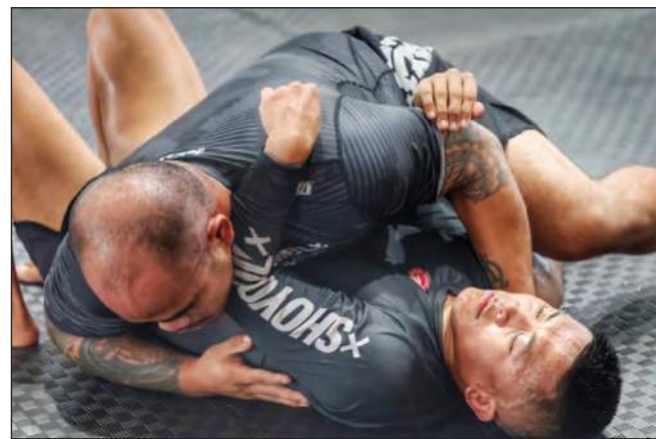
"The energy was really uplifting and electrifying. I would say everybody was super supportive regardless

See BRYAN on Page 15



LEIGH GASES

Gold medalist and black belt Bryan Deleon Guerrero chokes Kier Agda during their finals matchup in the Adults No-Gi 206-250-lb heavyweight class in Trench Tech Promotions' "Mats on Fire" submission grappling tournament last Saturday at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse.



LEIGH GASES

Silver medalist Kier Agda pins down gold medalist Bryan Deleon Guerrero in the Adults No-Gi 206-250-lb heavyweight class in Trench Tech Promotions' "Mats on Fire" submission grappling tournament last Saturday at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse.



LEIGH GASES

Bronze medalist Ryan Babauta has the upper hand over a struggling Ballen Song during the bronze medal matchup in the Adults No-Gi 206-250-lb heavyweight class in Trench Tech Promotions' "Mats on Fire" submission grappling tournament last Saturday at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse.



LEIGH GASES

From left, silver medalist Kier Agda, gold medalist Bryan Deleon Guerrero, and bronze medalist Ryan Babauta pose on the podium during the awards ceremony of the Adults No-Gi 206-250-lb heavyweight class in Trench Tech Promotions' "Mats on Fire" submission grappling tournament last Saturday at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse.

NMIBF inter-gov't/biz caging meeting tomorrow



LEIGH GASES

File photo shows Team PSS posing for a photo during the parade of teams in the opening ceremony of the Inaugural R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Gov't/Business League 2023 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER



The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation is hosting a meeting for their 2024 NMIBF Inter-Government/Business Basketball League tomorrow, Tuesday, Oct. 1 for those interested in joining.

The meeting is at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium at 5pm.

Last year, the NMIBF hosted the return of the league sponsored by R&J

Wine and Liquor. The champion team was the Public School System after it Priority Care in the finals.

The league ran from September 2023 to November 2023.

The teams that signed up for the league last year were PSS, Docomo Pacific, Marpac, CUC, Priority Care, Office of the Governor, Feds, CPA, CHCC, and Joeten.

Last year, the format and rules for the tournament were as follows: It's a round robin for the regular season. The Top 6 teams will

advance to the double-elimination rounds for the play-offs, semifinals, and finals.

Each roster was capped at 18, but only 15 players should be active per game; players must be working for the company for more than two months; and the company must provide employment verification or rosters signed by the human resources department.

Specific details and dates of those tournaments will be posted in the future.

For more information, contact nmibasketballfederation@gmail.com.

Dr. G completes 1K streak

By MARK RABAGO

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EDITOR



Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero may not beat the Millennium Falcon's Kessel Run record of less than

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero gestures the shaka after completing his comma last Friday in Marpi.

12 parsecs, but the Northern Marianas College president hit his own milestone nonetheless last Friday when he completed the run streak comma.

For Imperial shock troopers not into run streaks, a comma is when you run 1,000 straight days of 1 mile a day.

Asked what he felt about
See STREAK on Page 15

